

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 129001

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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TAGS: SREF, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE POLICY ON EMIGRATION OF RELATIVES
OF FOREIGNERS
REF: TOKYO 7282

1. SINCE THE FALL OF SAIGON, MANY FOREIGN CITIZENS LIVING IN VIET-NAM AND SOME VIETNAMESE CITIZEN RELATIVES OF FOREIGNERS HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE FROM VIET-NAM. NATIONALITIES INVOLVED INCLUDE FRENCH, CHINESE, INDIAN, PAKISTANI, AND KOREAN. PROCEDURES FOR EXITING VIET-NAM ARE OBTAINING ENTRY VISA TO COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, ARRANGING PASSAGE ON FRENCH GOVERNMENT FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON, AND THEN OBTAINING PERMISSION FROM VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES TO LEAVE. VARIATIONS IN THIS PROCEDURE MAY, OF COURSE, OCCUR FROM NATIONALITY TO NATIONALITY AND FROM PERSON TO PERSON.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, THAT VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES ARE GENERALLY WILLING TO ALLOW VIETNAMESE CITIZENS TO LEAVE TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES.

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DURING 1976, SIX AMERICAN CITIZENS AND TWO FAMILY MEMBERS

(NON-VIETNAMESE, WE BELIEVE) HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO LEAVE VIET-NAM; APPROXIMATELY 40 AMCITS REMAIN IN SAIGON. IN ONLY ONE INSTANCE IN LATE 1975 WERE VIETNAMESE

DEPENDENTS ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY AN AMERICAN FROM SAIGON. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO UNACCOMPANIED FAMILY MEMBERS OF EITHER AMCITS OR VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN ALLOWED BY THE VIETNAMESE TO LEAVE TO COME TO AMERICA.

3. DEPT HAS NO OBJECTION TO ISSUANCE OF GENERAL "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN" LETTER TO MRS. ATKINS VERIFYING HER CITIZENSHIP. SHE SHOULD BE TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS THAT THIS WILL ASSIST HER PARENTS TO LEAVE VIET-NAM. WE NEITHER ADVISE FOR NOR AGAINST HER SENDING SUCH A LETTER TO HER PARENTS TO PROVIDE THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, AS WE HAVE NO WAY OR KNOWING WHAT USE THOSE AUTHORITIES MIGHT MAKE OF SUCH A DOCUMENT. WITHOUT DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN SAIGON, THE USG IS OF COURSE UNABLE TO INTERVIEW APPLICANTS, ISSUE A VISA OR PROVIDE GUARANTEES TO OTHER COUNTRIES THAT PARENTS WOULD BE ADMITTED INTO THE UNITED STATES; SUCH DETERMINATION COULD ONLY BE MADE BY A CONSULAR OFFICER AFTER THE PARENTS EXIT VIET-NAM.

4. IN SHORT, BASIC PROBLEM INVOLVED IN REUNITING FAMILIES SEPARATED BY COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF SOUTH VIET-NAM IS UNWILLINGNESS OF NEW AUTHORITIES IN SOUTH VIET-NAM TO PERMIT BOTH AMERICANS AND VIETNAMESE CITIZENS TO EXIT THAT COUNTRY FREELY. WHILE DEPT SYMPAHTIZES WITH SUCH FAMILIES, WE SEE NO EFFECTIVE MEANS AT PRESENT TIME TO ASSIST THE DEPARTURE OF SUCH PERSONS FROM VIET-NAM. SISCO

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